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Soil Erosion

Sheet and Rill Erosion

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Permanent ground cover > 90% and slope < 10%. Assessment level: The water erosion rate is <= T.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
The current crop rotation includes at least 2 crops (may include cover crops) in rotation of which at least one is a high residue crop. <see state list of high residue crops>	Yes ☐ No ☐
Irrigation water use is managed to reduce irrigation induced soil erosion.	Yes ☐ No ☐
All hayed acres maintain at least 90 percent cover all year.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Ephemeral Gully Erosion

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Ephemeral gullies are not occuring. Assessment level: Conservation practices and managements are in place to prevent or control ephemeral gullies.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
All temporary or permanent rills and gullies are stabilized. All areas expected to have high erosion rates are stable.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Classic Gully Erosion

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Classic gullies are not present. Assessment level: Classic gully management is adequate to stop the progression of head cutting and widening and are offsite impacts are minimized by vegetation and/or structures.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
All temporary or permanent rills and gullies are stabilized. All areas expected to have high erosion rates are stable.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Streambank, Shoreline, Water Conveyance Channels

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Streams, shoreline or channels are not adjacent to site. Assessment level: For shorelines and water conveyance channels; banks are stable or commensurate with normal geomorphological processes, AND if bank erosion is present, it is beyond the client's control or commensurate with normal geomorphological processes, AND for streambanks, SVAP2 bank condition element score > 5.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Excluding all fundamentally unstable, natural geomorphic streambanks/shorelines, all streambanks/shorelines on the operation show few signs of erosion or bank failure. Each is stable and protected with natural materials.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Soil Quality Degradation

Organic Matter Depletion

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Permanent ground cover > 80%. Assessment level: The SCI is > 0.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Cover crops that are not burned, grazed, or harvested are included in the rotation.	Yes ☐ No ☐
A reduced/mulch till or no-till system is implemented. This system leaves crop residue on the soil surface and excludes primary inversion tillage implements (such as moldboard plow).	Yes ☐ No ☐

Compaction

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Soil compaction is not a problem AND activities do not cause soil compaction problems. Assessment level: Compaction is managed to meet client's production and management objectives.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Soil moisture is tested to reduce soil compaction. Typical methods include moisture-by-feel or moisture meters.	Yes ☐ No ☐
The crop rotation includes cover crops with deep roots that extend through the soil profile to break up compacted layers. <see state lists>	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Excess Water

Runoff and Flooding and Ponding

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Ponding or flooding not a problem AND activities do not cause ponding/flooding problems. Assessment level: Excess water is managed to meet client's objectives.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Deep rooted tree and shrub species are utilized to encourage infiltration and reduce runoff, flooding, or ponding.	Yes ☐ No ☐
Excessive water runoff, flooding, and water ponding are not concerns; or measures are applied such as grassed waterways, terraces, diversions, filter strips to reduce excessive runoff; or if flooding is a concern crops and field activities are managed within the seasonal flooding periods; or where ponding is a concern land leveling or shallow surface drains prevent ponding of water that limits crop production.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Insufficient Water

Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: PLU is not irrigated. Assessment level: The irrigation system components and management result in a Farm Irrigation Rating Index > 60 AND meets applicable State in-stream flow and lake and pond water levels requirements.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Cover crops are killed timely to conserve soil moisture for the next crop.	Yes ☐ No ☐
An irrigation water management plan is followed that: -meets the crop's needs, while maximizing irrigation water efficiency, -schedules water application based on soil moisture monitoring and/or evapotranspiration monitoring, -measures and records the amount of water you use to irrigate as it comes onto the farm and goes to each field, AND-the system's distribution uniformity has been evaluated and necessary changes were made.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Inefficient Moisture Management

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Moisture management is not a problem AND activities do not cause inefficient moisture management problems. Assessment level: Runoff and evapotranspiration levels are minimized to meet client's management objectives.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Cover crops are killed timely to conserve soil moisture for the next crop.	Yes ☐ No ☐
Crops grown, varieties, and cropping order are carefully chosen. The local climate conditions and a water balance/budget are used in the decision making process. Crop rotation includes at least 2 crops in rotation.	Yes ☐ No ☐
A residue and tillage management system is implemented on all crops in the rotation which keeps at least 60 percent of the field surface covered after planting to increase plant available moisture.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Water Quality Degradation

Nutrients in Surface Water

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Organic or inorganic nutrients are not applied AND the PLU is not grazed. Assessment level: Nutrient and amendment applications are based on soil or tissue tests and nutrient budgets for realistic yields AND conservation practices and managements are in place to minimize surface water impacts.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Cover crops are grown to utilize excess nutrients.	Yes ☐ No ☐
The land adjacent to a stream, river, or other waterbody on the side or sides you control does: - have diverse, natural plant cover typical to that along streams in your area, - extend from the stream bank/shoreline for a distance of 35 feet or (if applicable) the minimum State buffer-width requirement, whichever is greater, AND - have few places where concentrated runoff flows through.	Yes ☐ No ☐
Livestock access to streams is limited to short periods of time and small areas.	Yes ☐ No ☐
If nutrients are applied, a nutrient budget is used to determine all application rates, including: - Realistic yield goals, - Nutrient uptake requirements, and - Available nutrient accounting for each of the following: (a) N, P, K from representative soil tests (<= 3yrs), (b) Soil organic matter mineralization, (c) Legumes in rotation, (d) Previous applications of manure and other organic based materials, (e) Planned post-harvest residual soil test levels, (f) Available nutrient analysis for each nutrient source, and (g) Available nutrient uptake efficiencies from planned application rate, source, method, timing and placement. All state specific application setbacks are maintained for all nutrient applications.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Nutrients in Ground Water

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Organic or inorganic nutrients are not applied AND PLU is not grazed. Assessment level: Nutrient and amendment applications are based on soil or tissue tests and nutrient budgets for realistic yields AND conservation practices and managements are in place to minimize ground water impacts.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Cover crops are grown to utilize excess nutrients.	Yes ☐ No ☐
If nutrients are applied, a nutrient budget is used to determine all application rates, including: - Realistic yield goals, - Nutrient uptake requirements, and - Available nutrient accounting for each of the following: (a) N, P, K from representative soil tests (<= 3yrs), (b) Soil organic matter mineralization, (c) Legumes in rotation, (d) Previous applications of manure and other organic based materials, (e) Planned post-harvest residual soil test levels, (f) Available nutrient analysis for each nutrient source, and (g) Available nutrient uptake efficiencies from planned application rate, source, method, timing and placement. All state specific application setbacks are maintained for all nutrient applications.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solids or Compost Applications in Surface Water

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Potential sources of pathogens or pharmaceuticals are not applied on the land. Assessment level: Organic materials are applied, stored, and/or handled to mitigate negative impacts to surface water sources.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Filter strips that are at least 30 feet wide are established and maintained.	Yes ☐ No ☐
Livestock access to stream is controlled OR limited to small watering or crossing areas.	Yes ☐ No ☐
Manure and other biosolids are applied using a nutrient budget to determine all application rates, including: - Realistic yield goals, - Nutrient uptake requirements, and - Available nutrient accounting for each of the following: (a) N, P, K from representative soil tests (<= 3yrs), (b) Soil organic matter mineralization, (c) Legumes in rotation, (d) Avoiding manure applications when soils are frozen, snow covered, or saturated, (e) Planned post-harvest residual soil test levels, (f) Available nutrient analysis for each nutrient source, and (g) Available nutrient uptake efficiencies from planned application rate, source, method, timing and placement. All state specific application setbacks are maintained for all nutrient applications. Minimum setbacks are maintained from drainageways, wells, ditched, streams, rivers, and water bodies.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Excessive Sediment in Surface Water

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Permanent ground cover > 90% and slope < 10% AND classic gullies are not present AND streams or shoreline are not on or adjacent to site. Assessment level: Upslope treatment and buffer practices address concentrated flows to water bodies AND the SVAP2 - bank condition >= 5 AND the livestock and vehicle water crossings are stable AND The water erosion rate is <= T AND wind erosion rate is <= T.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
The land adjacent to a stream, river, or other waterbody on the side or sides you control does: - have diverse, natural plant cover typical to that along streams in your area, - extend from the stream bank/shoreline for a distance of 35 feet or (if applicable) the minimum State buffer-width requirement, whichever is greater, AND - have few places where concentrated runoff flows through.	Yes ☐ No ☐
All temporary or permanent rills and gullies are stabilized.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Air Quality Impacts

Emissions of Ozone Precursors

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Operations are not present that produce ozone precursor emissions. Ozone precursor producing activities are: Engines (combustion source), Pesticide application, Burning, CAFO/manure management, Fertilization (manure/commercial). Assessment level: Ozone precursor emmissions are managed to meet client objectives.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Ozone precursor producing activities are minimized by using one or more of the following activities: Reducing combustible engines exhaust via TIER 4 engine, applying IPM principles for pesticide applications, injection or incorporation of manure, nitrogen fertilizer incorportation or use of a nitrogen stabilizer.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Emission of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Activities are not present that produce GHGs emissions. GHG producing activities are: Fertilization(manure/commercial), CAFO/manure management, Engines (combustion source), Tillage, AND GHGs are not regulated in this planning area. Assessment level: Greenhouse gas emmissions are managed to meet client objectives.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
If Nitrogen is applied, Nitrogen is applied as close as possible to crop uptake needs at the recommended rates.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Objectionable Odors

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Activities are not present that contribute to odor nuisance air quality conditions. Odor nuisance producing activities are: Pesticide application, CAFO/manure management, Composting is conducted, AND odor sources are not regulated in this planning area AND episodes or complaints of odor nuisance have not occurred. Assessment level: Odors are managed to meet client objectives.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Manure is applied and immediately incorporated or applied when wind direction is away from human occupied areas.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Degraded Plant Condition

Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Plant production and health is not a client concern. Assessment level: Plants are adapted to the site, meet production goals and do not negatively impact other resources AND plant damage from wind erosion is below Crop Damage Tolerance levels.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Plants and crops are adapted to the soil and site conditions and produce average yield levels for the county in typical years.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Excessive Plant Pest Pressure

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Plant productivity is not limited from pest pressure. Assessment level: Pest damage to plants are below economic or environmental thresholds or client-identified criteria AND plant pests, including noxious and invasive species are managed to meet client objectives.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
A crop rotation of at least 2 crops (which may include cover crops) that reduces plant pest pressures and breaks pest cycles is used. For example, crop rotation breaks pest cycles and allows for the rotation of chemical modes of action.	Yes ☐ No ☐
Weeds, insects, and diseases do not limit crop production.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat

Inadequate Habitat - Food

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Assessment level: The WHSI rating is >= 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) the SVAP2 - fish habitat complexity element score is >= 7 AND the SVAP2 - aquatic invertebrate habitat element score is >= 7, OR conservation practices and managements are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds, OR food is available in quality and extent to support habitat requirements for the species of interest.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Designated areas are planted as food and habitat for pollinators/beneficial insects. For example, planted to nectar and pollen producing plants and protected from disruption--chemical, biological, or mechanical.	Yes ☐ No ☐
Unharvested grain crops are intentionally left in the field as wildlife food on an annual basis.	Yes ☐ No ☐
Plant growth and cover is managed to develop and maintain early successional habitat to help chosen wildlife species. <see State Wildlife Action Plan>	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Assessment level: The WHSI rating is >= 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) the SVAP2 - barriers to movement element score is >= 7 AND the SVAP2 - fish habitat complexity element score is >= 7 AND the SVAP2 - aquatic invertebrate habitat element score is >= 7, OR conservation practices and managements are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds, OR cover is of available quality and extent to support habitat requirements for the species of interest.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Designated areas are planted as food and habitat for pollinators/beneficial insects. For example, planted to nectar and pollen producing plants and protected from disruption--chemical, biological, or mechanical.	Yes ☐ No ☐
A crop rotation that provides cover and shelter for wildlife is used. <STATE EXAMPLES--grain crops, forage crops, nectar or pollen producing crops, winter cover crops, contour strip cropping including small grain/hay>	Yes ☐ No ☐
Plant growth and cover is managed to develop and maintain habitat to help chosen wildlife species. <see State Wildlife Action Plan>	Yes ☐ No ☐
Established field borders are kept as wildlife cover and as pollinator/beneficial insect habitat.	Yes ☐ No ☐
The stream(s) have: - a natural, unaltered configuration, with minimal channel straightening, dredging, or bank alteration by armoring with rip-rap or other non-natural materials, - stable banks with limited erosion or bank failure, and - human uses and/or grazing levels that do not negatively impact bank condition.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Assessment level: The WHSI rating is >= 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) the SVAP2 - barriers to movement element score is >= 7 AND the SVAP2 - aquatic invertebrate habitat element score is >= 7, OR conservation practices and managements are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds, OR The connectivity of habitat components are adequate to support stable populations of targeted species.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
The land adjacent to a stream, river, or other waterbody on the side or sides you control does: - have diverse, natural plant cover typical to that along streams in your area, AND - extend from the stream bank/shoreline for a distance of 35 feet or (if applicable) the minimum State buffer-width requirement, whichever is greater.	Yes ☐ No ☐
People, vehicles, equipment, or livestock are only moved across a stream/river at a bridge, culvert, or stabilized ford crossing(s). Travel across the stream/river beyond these crossings is controlled.	Yes ☐ No ☐
Connectivity between food resources and cover and shelter is provided for the chosen wildlife species. <see State Wildlife Action Plan>	Yes ☐ No ☐
Established field borders are kept as wildlife cover and as pollinator/beneficial insect habitat.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Livestock Production Limitation

Inadequate Feed and Forage

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Assessment level: When the land use has a "grazed" modifer, livestock forage, roughage and supplemental nutritional requirements addressed.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
The current crop rotation provides ample feed and/or forages to support the livestock on the farm. Soil erosion and compaction are also lessened.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Inefficient Energy Use

Equipment and Facilities

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Client is not interested in improving equipment and facilities energy efficiency. Assessment level: Major componenets of a USDA approved energy audit have been implemented that address equipment and facilities to meet client objectives OR On-farm renewable energy and/or energy conserving practices have been implemented to meet client objectives.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Recommendations/components of an energy audit have been applied. The audit addressed equipment and facilities on the farm. For example, energy loss from lighting, drying, refrigeration, heating, or building insulation have been improved.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Farming/Ranching Practices and Field Operations

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Client is not interested in improving equipment and facilities energy efficiency. Assessment level: Major componenets of a USDA approved energy audit have been implemented that address equipment and facilities to meet client objectives OR On-farm renewable energy and/or energy conserving practices have been implemented to meet client objectives.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
A residue and tillage management system is implemented on all crops in the rotation. The system leaves crop residue on the soil surface and excludes primary inversion tillage implements (such as moldboard plow). <Refer to state specific crop rotations showing systems which use at least 25% less energy than a conventional tillage system.>	Yes ☐ No ☐
Recommendations/components of an energy audit have been applied. The audit addressed field operations on the farm. For example, energy loss from driven equipment, irrigation, or pumping have been improved.	Yes ☐ No ☐
An irrigation water management plan is followed that: -meets the crop's needs, while maximizing irrigation water efficiency, -schedules water application based on soil moisture monitoring and/or evapotranspiration monitoring, -measures and records the amount of water you use to irrigate as it comes onto the farm and goes to each field, AND -the system's distribution uniformity has been evaluated and necessary changes were made.	Yes ☐ No ☐